

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Action Background

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on 7/15/2009.
2. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7. Claims 2-4 and 11-13 were previously canceled. An examiner's amendment to claims 1 and 7 appear below.
3. Claims 1, 5-10, 14 and 15 are pending in the case; claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.
4. The examiner's rejection of claims 1, 5-10, 14 and 15, rejected as described in the office action dated 4/15/2009, is withdrawn in view of the amendment to the claims.

Examiner's Amendment

5. An examiner's amendment to claims 1 and 7 appear below. Text added by the examiner is shown underlined; text deleted by the examiner is shown struck out. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Tanya Arenson on November 13, 2009. The amendment is made to clarify that the systems are hardware and thus is statutory under 35 USC 101.

6. Rewrite claims 1, 9 and 12 as follows:
1. A system for generating contextual markups of formatted documents, comprising a processor ~~or~~ and software configured to receive documents over an electronic communication network, wherein said documents are selected from the group consisting of assignments, students' manuscripts, grant applications and journal manuscripts, convert submitted formatted documents to standardized formatted documents, wherein said formatted documents are image files, permit a user to add contextual markups to said standardized formatted documents derived from said submitted formatted documents to generate a markup document, wherein said contextual markups are selected from the from the group consisting of editorial comments, corrections, annotations, rubrics, symbols and comments added by said user, and wherein said contextual markups are images that are added to an invisible image that maps exactly onto each image of said image file, and wherein said image file is not modified, and display said markup document comprising said contextual markups on a web browser.
 7. A method for generating contextual markups of formatted documents, comprising:
 - a) providing a processor ~~or~~ and software configured to receive documents over an electronic communication network, convert submitted formatted documents to standardized formatted documents, permit a user to add contextual

markups to formatted documents derived from said submitted formatted documents to generate a markup document, and display said markup document on a web browser;

- b) inputting a document into said processor or software under conditions such that a standardized formatted document is generated wherein said standardized formatted document is an image file, wherein said document is selected from the group consisting of assignments, students' manuscripts, grant applications and journal manuscripts;
- c) adding contextual markups to said standardized formatted document to generate a markup document wherein said contextual markups are selected from the group consisting of editorial comments, corrections, annotations, rubrics, symbols and comments, and wherein said contextual markups are images that are added to an invisible image that maps exactly onto each image of said image file, and wherein said image file is not modified; and
- d) displaying said markup document comprising said contextual markups.

Reasons for Allowance

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 1 and 7, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor suggests to a person of ordinary skill, at the time the invention was made, the claimed system or method for generating contextual markups of formatted documents, comprising a processor and software configured to receive documents over an electronic communication network, wherein said documents are selected from the group consisting of assignments, students' manuscripts, grant applications and journal manuscripts, convert submitted formatted documents to standardized formatted documents, wherein said formatted documents are image files, permit a user to add contextual markups to said standardized formatted documents derived from said submitted formatted documents to generate a markup document, wherein

said contextual markups are selected from the from the group consisting of editorial comments, corrections, annotations, rubrics, symbols and comments added by said user, and wherein said contextual markups are images that are added to an invisible image that maps exactly onto each image of said image file, and wherein said image file is not modified, and display said markup document comprising said contextual markups on a web browser..

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4131. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Gregory J. Vaughn/
Patent Examiner
November 13, 2009